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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,160	12/26/2001	Thomas James Edsall	ANDIP001	9388
22434	7590	01/29/2008		
BEYER WEAVER LLP P.O. BOX 70250 OAKLAND, CA 94612-0250				
			EXAMINER PHAM, BRENDA H	
			ART UNIT 2616	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 01/29/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,160

Applicant(s)

EDSALL ET AL.

Examiner

Brenda Pham

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,9-23,25-28,30-53,55,56,58-61 and 63-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is /are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>11/30/07</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-23, 25-28, 30-50, 52-53, 55-56, 58-61, 63-66 are pending in the application.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 60 is objected to because of the following informalities: "A computer-readable medium storing thereon computer-readable instructions for performing a method on a network device in a storage area network, comprising" should be amended to "A computer-readable medium storing thereon computer-readable instructions, when executed by a computer, which causes the computer to perform a method on a network device in a storage area network, comprising:". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7, 11-13, 14, 22-23, 25-26, 28, 32-33, 35, 44-47, 49-50, 53, 55-56, 58, 60, 63, 65-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WAKAYAMA et al (US 2001/0049739 A1) in view of ISHIZAKI (US 2003/0101239 A1) further in view of FRANTZ et al (US 5,959,990).

Regarding claims 1, 2, 9-10, 22-23, 30-31, 34, 44-46, 48, 50, 55, 56, 59-61, 65-66, WAKAYAMA et al discloses a network device and method for use in a network, the method comprising:

receiving or generating a packet or frame compatible with a standard protocol employed in the area network;

encapsulating the packet or frame with a virtual area network identifier, a type of traffic to be carried by the packet or frame, and information specifying at least one of a TTL value or MPLS information, wherein encapsulating comprises appending a header to the packet or frame to create a new packet or frame, wherein the header includes fields for the virtual area network identifier and information specifying at least one of the TTL value or the MPLS information; and sending the encapsulated packet or frame (see FIG. 1-5, [0048] thru [0059]).

Although WAKAYAMA et al does not teach VLAN can be used as VSAN, it is well known in the art that a "Storage Area Network" or SAN means any network, real or virtual, that has one of its primary functions to provide storage from one or more storage system to one or more computer system, (as is defined by TAMURA et al, US 6,728,848).

ISHIZAKI, also teaches a storage device with VLAN support. Ishizaki teaches a secure IP protocol capable storage devices using Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN) technique (see abstract and figure 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement the method of WAKAYAMA et al in a virtual storage area network, such as that in ISHIZAKI.

Although WAKAYAMA does not teach wherein the header further includes a field specifying the type of traffic to be carried by the packet or frame, wherein the type of traffic include at least one of Ethernet, fibre channel or Infiniband, It is well known in the art to inserting a frame type such as Ethernet type field (of an Ethernet data frame) in the header, such as taught by Frantz et al.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 7, 25, 26, 28, 53, 58, 63, WAKAYAMA et al teaches wherein the TTL value specifies a number of remaining hops that can be traversed before the encapsulated packet or frame is dropped.

Claims 11 and 32, WAKAYAMA et al further teach wherein the header comprises a field specifying a use priority for the packet or frame ([0024] and FIG. 2, element 514-1).

Claims 12-14, 33, 35, 47, 49, as explained in the rejection statement of claim 1 (parent claim). WAKAYAMA et al discloses all the claim limitations in parent claim. Although WAKAYAMA et al in view of ISHIZAKI do not teach wherein the standard protocol is fibre channel or Infiniband, it is well known in the art to utilize Fibre Channel or Infiniband standard protocol in MPLS switching network.

5. Claims 6, 16-20, 27, 37-42, 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WAKAYAMA et al (US 2001/0049739 A1) in view of ISHIZAKI (US 2003/0101239 A1) further in view of Frantz et al (US 5,959,990) furthermore in view of BEHZADI (US 6,728,220 B2).

Regarding claims 6, 27, 52, WAKAYAMA et al in view of ISHIZAKI further in view of FRANTZ et al do not disclose calculating an error check value for the new packet or frame and including the error check value the new packet or frame, insert CRC value field in MPLS header is well known and is shown in FIG. 6 of BEHZADI. It is well known in the art a process used to check the integrity of a block of data. A CRC character is generated at the transmission end. Its value depends on the hexadecimal value of the number of ones in the data block. The receiving end makes a similar calculation and compares its results with the added character. If there is a difference, the recipient requests retransmission. CRC is a common method of establishing that data was correctly received in the data communications.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to implement packet header including CRC field.

Claim 16, 37, BEHZADI further teaches wherein the header includes a TTL field and the field has 8 bits reserved (see Col. 2, lines 35-39).

Claims 17-20, and 38-42, BEHZADI further teaches wherein the new packet or frame includes one or more MPLS labels, each of the labels including an indicator to

indicate whether the label is the last label in a label stack; wherein the indicator field is one bit. (As shows in FIG. 2, the MPLS label field carries the label value that is used to forward a packet to the next LSR. The stacking field is used to identifying when an MPLS header is the last MPSTL header in the stack of MPLS header, and the TTL field carries a TTL value that places a limit on the number of an MPLS packet can traverse within an MPLS domain.)

6. Claims 15, 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WAKAYAMA et al (US 2001/0049739 A1) in view of ISHIZAKI (US 2003/0101239 A1) further in view of ROSEN (US 6,337,861 B1) and furthermore in view of WALRAND et al (US 6,674,760 B1).

Regarding claims 15 and 36, WAKAYAMA et al in view of ISHIZAKI discloses a method as set forth in claim 1 (parent claim), WAKAYAMA et al and TAMURA et al does not teach wherein the header field for the virtual storage area network identifier has 12 bits reserved.

WALRAND et al, in the same field of endeavor, teaches the VSAN tag includes a 12-bit VSAN-ID used to identifying the VSAN to which the packet is directed (see [0005]).

It would have been obvious to implement a 12-bit VSAN-ID in the packet header.

7. Claims 21, 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WAKAYAMA et al (US 2001/0049739 A1) in view of ISHIZAKI (US 2003/0101239 A1)

further in view of ROSEN (US 6,337,861 B1) and furthermore in view of AGGARWAL et al (US 6,330,614).

Regarding claims 21, 43, WAKAYAMA et al in view of ISHIZAKI disclose all the claim limitation recites in claim 1 (parent claim). WAKAYAMA et al in view of ISHIZAKI does not teach wherein the header further includes a version field indicating a version of the header. The limitation is well known in the art and is taught by AGGARWAL et al in accordance with figure 7.

It would have been obvious to those having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement the version field indicating a version of the header, such as that taught by AGGARWAL et al.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Application/Control Number:
10/034,160
Art Unit: 2616

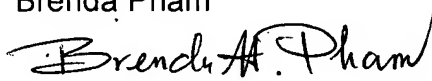
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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brenda Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-3135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild, can be reached on (571) 272-2092.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

January 24, 2008
Brenda Pham

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda A. Pham". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

BRENDA PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER